

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJECT: HIGHLIGHTS

REF : PAO LETTER NO. 12

1. ATMOSPHERICS:

-- UNANNOUNCED FOUR-DAY VISIT OF SINGAPORE PRIME MINISTER LEE KUAN YEW BELATEDLY REPORTED BY MAJOR LOCAL PAPERS. AFP TAIPEI QUOTED GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN AS TERMING IT VACATION-ONLY AND AS REFUTING RUMORS ABROAD IT HAD ANYTHING TO DO WITH TAIPEI-PEKING MEDIATION (THIS ITEM DID NOT APPEAR IN LOCAL PAPERS). FOREIGN MINISTER SHEN CH'ANG-HUAN QUOTED AS SAYING MANY FOREIGN OFFICIALS, INCLUDING PREMIERS, HAVE ASKED TO VISIT TAIWAN SINCE U.N. WITHDRAWAL IN 1971 TO "SEE WHAT KIND OF SPIRIT HAS ENABLED THE ROC GOVERNMENT TO STAND UP SO FIRMLY."

-- PREMIER CHIANG CHING-KUO'S REMARKS TO LOCAL JOURNALISTS DURING ANNUAL GARDEN PARTY, AS REPORTED BY LOCAL PAPERS, INCLUDED HIS EXHORTATION: "SO LONG AS WE STAY UNITED AND WORK TOGETHER FOR OUR COMMON GOAL, WE WILL BE ABLE TO
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CREATE A NEW PAGE IN OUR HISTORY -- TO ACCOMPLISH THE

GREAT TASK OF THE RECOVERY OF THE CHINESE MAINLAND."

-- ON ANOTHER OCCASION HE QUOTED AS OUTLINING HIS FY1977 ADMINISTRATIVE PROGRAM AS INCLUDING CONTINUING DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS ON BASIS OF INDEPENDENCE AND SELF-DETERMINATION, STAYING WITH THE DEMOCRATIC AND FREE CAMP, STEPPING UP ALL-OUT DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS WITH FRIENDLY NATIONS AND PROMOTING ECONOMIC TRADE, CULTURAL AND TECHNICAL TIES WITH COUNTRIES THAT DO NOT HAVE DIPLOMATIC TIES WITH ROC.

-- PROMINENT COVERAGE GIVEN DEPARTURE FOR WASHINGTON TO ATTEND WHITE HOUSE BREAKFAST MEETING OF CNA DIRECTOR JIMMY WEI, CHINA AIRLINES HEAD CLIFF LOUIE, PRESIDENT OF THE ROC MEDIUM AND SMALL BUSINESS ASSOCIATION LIU CHIN-CHENG AND PRESIDENT OF THE CHINA INVESTMENT AND TRUST COMPANY JEFFREY KOO.

-- IN A SHARP CRACKDOWN ON ROBBERIES, SEVEN YOUNG MALE ADULTS EXECUTED BY TAIWAN GARRISON COMMAND FIRING SQUADS AND SEVERAL MORE FACED POSSIBILITY OF SIMILAR FATE. MEDIA GAVE THE CASES PROMINENT COVERAGE INCLUDING PRIME-TIME TELEVISION COVERAGE OF THE FIRST FOUR BEING PREPARED FOR EXECUTION. THE POLICE FOLLOWED WITH ANNOUNCEMENT THERE HAD BEEN CORRESPONDING SHARP DROP IN ALL TYPES OF CRIME THROUGHOUT ISLAND.

-- PREMINENT COVERAGE GIVEN STATEMENT BY TAIWAN MISSIONARY FELLOWSHIP (TMF) THAT "INTELLIGENCE GATHERING FOR ANY GOVERNMENT HAS NO PLACE IN THE LIFE OF A MISSIONARY." TMF SAID STATEMENT WAS IN RESPONSE TO UPI DECEMBER 12 REPORT QUOTING PRESIDENT FORD ON ROLE OF MISSIONARIES IN INTELLIGENCE AND INFORMATION GATHERING ACTIVITY.

2. PROGRAM ACTIVITIES:

-- USIS TAIPEI LIBRARY COMPLETED THOROUGH INVENTORY AND WEEDING OF COLLECTION AFTER TWO-YEAR INTERVAL. BOOK LOSS SHOWED A REMARKABLY LOW RATE OF ONLY 3.4 PERCENT. NEW GUIDELINES FOR SELECTION AND WEEDING TAIWAN LIBRARY COLLECTIONS (INCLUDING ALL MEDIA) BEING DEVELOPED BY RLC AND APPROXIMATELY UNCLASSIFIED

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10 PERCENT OF TAIPEI COLLECTION HAS BEEN WITHDRAWN. NEW METHODS BEING EXPLORED AND SEVERAL PRIORITIES BEING DEVELOPED FOR FOCUSING COLLECTIONS AND EXTENDING THE INTER-LIBRARY SHARING OF LIMITED RESOURCES.

-- FULBRIGHT PROFESSOR PHILIP GOULD GAVE PERCEPTIVE AND WELL ORGANIZED LECTURE "NEW YORK SCHOOL: AMERICAN ART SINCE 1945" IN TAIPEI'S LINCOLN CENTER JANUARY 16 BEFORE

AUDIENCE OF 80. STAFF RATED IT BEST OF FIVE OR SIX
LECTURES ON ART HELD IN CENTER PAST TWO YEARS.

-- AMSPEC PETER KENEN ABSOLUTELY FIRST-RATE IN THREE DAYS
TAIWAN PROGRAMMING JANUARY 20-24. HIS REPUTATION AND
STAR QUALITY DREW TOP RANK AUDIENCE MEMBERS TO SEMINAR ON
TRADE AND ECONOMIC GROWTH AT ACADEMIA SINICA, LECTURE ON
SAME TOPIC AT USIS AND SEMINAR ON FLEXIBLE EXCHANGE
RATES AT ROC ECONOMIC PLANNING COUNCIL. MINISTER OF
ECONOMIC AFFAIRS -- WHO NEVER PREVIOUSLY ATTENDED USIS
SPONSORED PROGRAMS, CAME TO TWO OF KENEN'S PROGRAMS, ONE
OF THEM IN LINCOLN CENTER. MOREOVER, WE WERE ABLE TO MAKE
KENEN SEVERAL APPOINTMENTS AT MINISTRY LEVEL WITH EASE.
ALL TOLD, KENEN MET PERSONALLY OR ADDRESSED IN FORMAL
PROGRAMMING A MAJORITY OF ROC ACADEMIC LEADERS IN ECONOMICS
AS WELL AS CHIEF GOVERNMENT ECONOMIC POLICYMAKERS.
KENEN'S PRESENTATIONS COGENT, PERCEPTIVE AND PERTINENT.
MOREOVER, HE CAME IN MIDST OF DEBATE IN ROC ECONOMIC
CIRCLES OVER EXCHANGE RATE POLICY AND WE FOUND FLEXIBLE
EXCHANGE RATE ADVOCATES ENLISTING HIS VOICE IN CLARIFYING
OPTIONS IN THIS DEBATE. THUS, WE FELT IT QUITE LIKELY
HIS VISIT AND ARGUMENTS HE PRESENTED HERE WILL HAVE
POSITIVE INFLUENCE ON ECONOMIC POLICY DIALOGUE CHINESE
ARE HAVING AMONG THEMSELVES. ONE COULD HARDLY ASK FOR
MORE IN A SPEAKER.
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